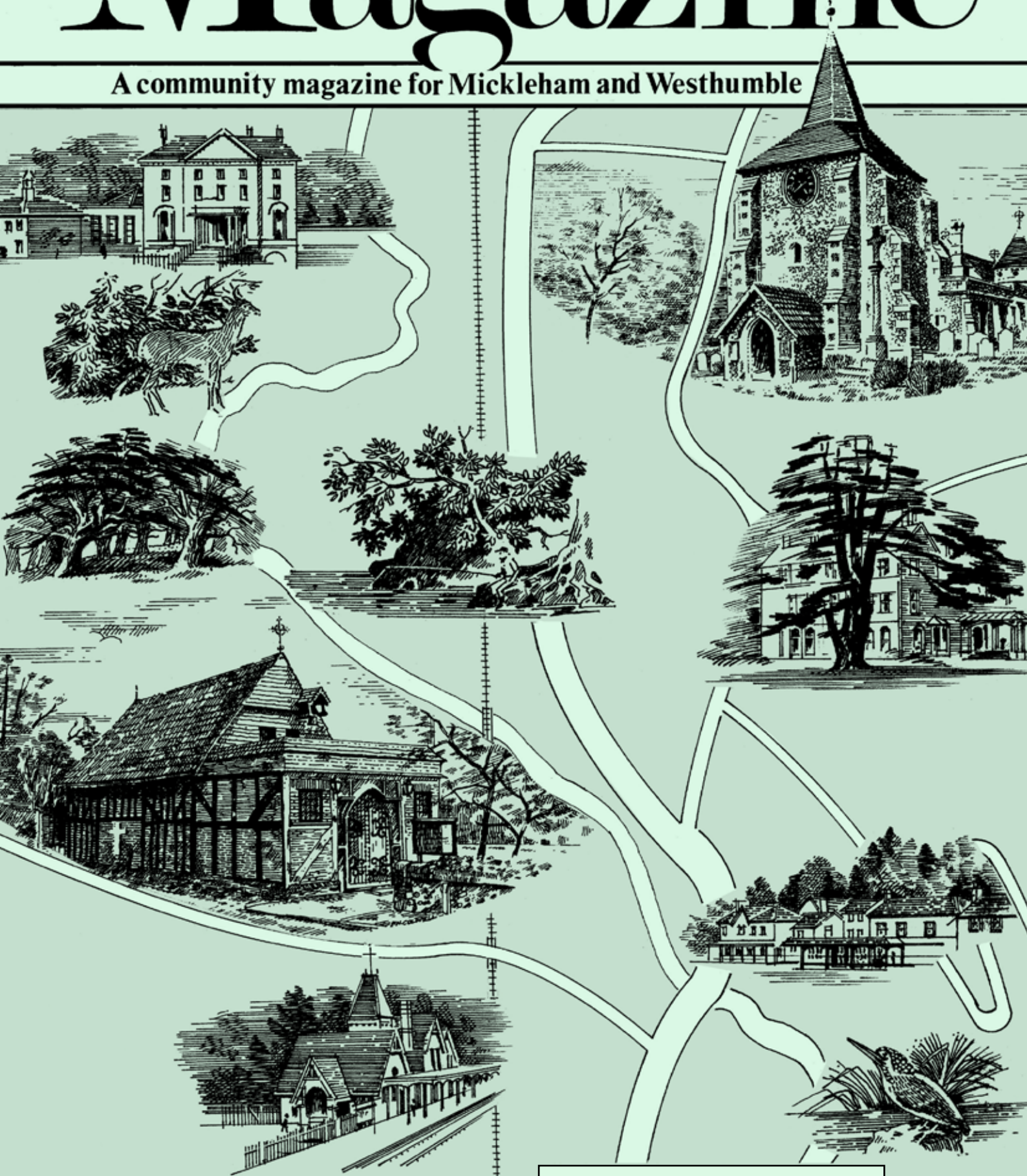
MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



November 2026

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Mickleham Parish Magazine

November 2026

Mickleham Parish Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble published under the auspices of Mickleham PCC with an independent editorial panel.

The magazine is published at the beginning of each month except January and August.

COPY DEADLINE

DECEMBER 2026 MAGAZINE

Sunday 8th November

send to:
editor@micklehammag.co.uk

Co-editors
Charlotte Daruwalla
Jan Budleigh

Advertising
Please contact
ads@**mickleham mag.co.uk**

Contributions in any form are welcome as are good quality photographs. There is no charge for advertising local charity and community events. However the editors reserve the right to shorten, omit or reformat articles submitted for publication depending on space. Copy published is not necessarily the views of the editors or panel.

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Mickleham Rectory

Dear friends

November is a time for remembering, not only on the 5th of the month. Do you wonder, what could be the origins of the word? Initially, I thought it might have come from re-member with the idea of putting limbs back on a body of information! It seems my imagination went too far and in fact, it derives from a root meaning be mindful and is akin to memoir. Apparently, way back, a 'b' was added to make it easier to pronounce. It came to us from the French who got it from Latin.

Remembering can involve bringing back to life events that happened in the past. Whenever we attend a service of Holy Communion, we remember the suffering and death of Jesus for us, to set us free from sin and as we receive the bread and wine we remember and experience the power of love.

On Remembrance Sunday we do more than recall past wars and the resulting great loss of life. We try to imagine something of the horrors of war and the pain and tragedies in such a way as to honour those who gave their lives or suffered terrible wounds or great distress. We give thanks for their sacrifice and for our freedom, which they won for us. Having noted the pain of past generations, we will look again at our troubled world with even greater longing for peace to prevail. We often feel overwhelmed and powerless to stop armed conflict and terrible suffering. We can give to charities to help the victims, and we can pray for peace and trust God to change hearts and minds. In our contexts we can refrain from aggression, be peacemakers where there is dissension and be inclusive and loving where we can. Let's join in unity on Sunday 8th November at 10 am in church and just before 11 am at the war memorial to remember and share our desire for peace.

There is also an opportunity to remember those no longer with us the following week, Sunday 15th at 4 pm at our Lights to Remember service. We will gather in church and spend time thinking about and honouring those we have loved and still miss as we name them and light a candle in their memory. We will have readings, prayers and hymns and a reflection reminding us of the hope of heaven, followed by refreshments.

One way of actively remembering those who have truly little is by sending a shoebox filled with useful items and treats, giving joy to a family at Christmas and showing them they are not forgotten. Do support Link to Hope by filling a shoebox for Christmas and bringing it to church by 15th November. Look online or pick up a leaflet from church to find out what to include.

Another event to look out for in November is the afternoon concert for children, a performance of 'The Snowman' followed by tree lighting outside church on 22nd. Seasonal refreshments will be provided too. There is also an autumn soup lunch on 26th November. The homemade soups and bread and cheese are always delicious, and we can support local charities through our donations.

See you soon,

God Bless

Sandra

The Rev'd Dr Sandra Faccini, Parish Priest

St Michael's Church Services



10 am Sunday Services available on Zoom

Joining information for both Zoom and telephone users is available in Pews News Online each week. If you would like to join us by Zoom then contact Alison Wood for the codes or to ask her to include you on the emailing list for Pews News: **admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk** / phone 01372 376443. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us for worship.

Please refer to Pews News Online for the latest information. If you missed any of the services or would like to revisit them all are available on the church YouTube channel: **https://youtube.com/channel/UCl4pbewCT91iZhcdoEjJBIw**

Men's and Women's Breakfasts

9-10 am at the Stepping Stones pub

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST
3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
NEXT BREAKFAST
21ST NOVEMBER
Book with:
Alison Wood
alisonwood29@btinternet.com

MEN'S BREAKFAST
4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
NEXT BREAKFAST
28TH NOVEMBER
Book with:
Andy Diamond
adiamond714@gmail.com



BIBLE STUDY

All welcome

At Westhumble Chapel

Monday evening group

7.45 pm to 9 pm

Please contact Amanda on **aewadsworth@hotmailcom** if you would like more information.

Thursday morning group

11 am for an 11.30 start until 12.30 pm

If you would like to join us, please call Alison Wood on 01372 376443 or 07905 985928.



First Saturday of the month

Coffee Morning

Westhumble Chapel

Saturday 7th November

Come along between 10 am and 12 noon

Coffee and cake £2 Free drinks for children

Everyone welcome

For further information call Jonathan Blake 07787 126966



Tea @3

Monday 16th November

Host: Julia and Richard Siberry
Old House, Old London Road, Mickleham

ALL WELCOME TRANSPORT AVAILABLE

If you can help with future events, please contact Julia at **siberrman@btinternet.com**

St Michael's Church Community Group

Food Bank Collection

We welcome items for adults, children and infants including:

• non-perishable food • laundry and cleaning supplies • personal hygiene products

LOCAL COLLECTION POINTS



MICKLEHAM
Garden Corner off Old London Road
Mary Banfield 01372 373912

WESTHUMBLE
St Anthony Pilgrims Way
Sue Tatham 01306 882547

The Stepping Stones
Westhumble Street



Also items may be brought to Coffee Mornings at Westhumble Chapel and St Michael's Church on Sunday mornings

To make monetary donations go to: https://dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/

CHECK THE COMMUNITY WHATSAPP EACH WEEK FOR ITEMS CURRENTLY IN SHORT SUPPLY

St Michael's Community Group

Autumn Lunches: All Welcome



There is one autumn lunch to go, Thursday 26th November at the Mickleham Village Hall. Doors open at 12.45 pm, and lunch will be served from 1 pm.

Places go quickly. There is no charge, but donations will be gratefully received, with all proceeds going to local charities (including the Foodbank).

To help us plan quantities, please book your place with Andy Diamond by calling 07789 775354 or email **adiamond714@gmail.com**

Don't miss out!

Kelvin Pritchard
Chair of Community Group

Lights to Remember

St Michael's Church, Mickleham invite you to a special service of

Thanksgiving and Remembrance

Sunday 15th November at 4 pm



We will gather to remember and give thanks for people we have known and loved, who have died both recently and in the past.

The service will include hymns, prayers, readings, a list of those to remember and the opportunity to light a candle.

heritage open days

More than one hundred people visited St Michael's Church on 19th September as part of the Mole Valley Heritage Open Days event.

It was lovely to see the church busy with visitors, both local and from further afield. They were enjoying our beautiful historic church and the fascinating for-one-day-only exhibition organised by the local history group about local families and characters. See page 6.

Lucy Adshead
Assistant Church Warden

MICKLEHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

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Harvest Festival Service and Workshop

Harvest is a great time to give thanks for our amazing planet and the cornucopia of delicious edible plants that we have. We give thanks for our farmers who tend the land and grow crops for us. We also remember those who live in areas of the world where food is not abundant, either through famine, war, or human greed and corruption.

Our harvest service at St Michael's at the beginning of October was a celebration of this wonderful time of year. The church looked amazing with beautiful flowers and vegetables throughout. Many thanks to the talented flower arranging team.



Harvest altar cloth made by members of St Michael's School

Sandra, our priest, led us in a lively service, which was followed by a delicious bring and share lunch in the church.

The tradition of celebrating harvest is an important part of our community, and we hand this down via the next generation, so it was lovely to see the Douch family both organising and taking part in the craft workshop before the service. Now that we have lost our village school (we missed the children from St Michael's School at our service), we must work even harder to keep these traditions and activities alive. Even if you do not usually go to church, please think about bringing your children and grandchildren to the major festivals in the year. Celebrating with local friends and your family is what makes a community. Everyone is always very welcome!

Lucy Adshead



The bring and share lunch



Harvest workshop crafts

Westhumble Resident's Association
Committee Meeting 23rd September

The closure of Chapel Lane from 29th September to 21st October for the installation of improved drainage was discussed at length. Residents had been advised that the road would be closed to all traffic for the duration of the works. The Chair had been in contact with both Surrey County Council and Chris Coghlan to ensure access could be given for both emergency vehicles and bin lorries. (Post meeting, arrangements were made with Surrey Highways to allow emergency vehicles and Joint Waste Solutions were given access for bin lorries).

The railway bridge is also being looked at by Chris Coghlan's team. Network Rail have determined that the bridge is structurally sound for 7.5 tonne vehicles and no further work is planned. It has been suggested that the bollards be removed and an ANPR camera installed to detect overweight vehicles.

The village orchard was discussed. The trees are generally healthy with only a handful of the 280+ trees lost to date. Most of the trees are still a few years from maturity and once this is reached, the deer guards will be removed. Community involvement is expected to be limited to specific dates, with access controlled by the National Trust, with a fruit harvest likely to be the main event.

The PSPO, covering anti-social behaviour on the A24 and around Rykas, is still not in place due mainly to disagreements between Mole Valley District Council and Surrey County Council over signage. It was noted that the closure of the Zig Zag Road one Wednesday evening had reduced bike noise. The Chair will work with Will Dennis and Mickleham Parish Council to keep pressure on the councils involved. It was noted that biker events at St Michael's church and the Stepping Stones pub were both highly successful.

The issue of bins at the station has yet to be satisfactorily resolved. Govia Thameslink (GTL) had put a large red bin in front of the station, which has now been removed but there has been no commitment to reinstall refuse bins on the platforms. The Chair will take this up with GTL.

Plans for bonfire night on 7th November are well in hand. The bonfire committee are planning to keep the same format as last year's highly successful event, possibly with more food outlets. Professional walkie talkies have been purchased to improve communication.

The Mickleham and Westhumble Events Committee met in September and are planning a summer fair for the whole community, in Mickleham on 3rd July.

The next WRA committee meeting is on 13th January.

Chris Budleigh, Chair

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group
Heritage Open Day Exhibition 2026
NOT SUCH ORDINARY LIVES



What makes a village's history memorable? Often it is not the grandest house, the most celebrated visitor or the date of a major event, but the people whose work, routines and quiet character gave a place its texture. That was the inspiration behind *Not Such Everyday Lives*, the exhibition held in St Michael's Church, as part of the Mole Valley Heritage Open Day.

The exhibition shone a light on some of the men and women who lived and worked in Mickleham and Westhumble during the last century or so. Their occupations may sound familiar: gardener, postmistress, publican, housemaid, railwayman, farmer, chauffeur; but the stories behind them reveal lives that were rarely ordinary. Together they offer a glimpse of a village that was both self-contained and surprisingly connected to the wider world.

Sue Tatham's excellent PowerPoint presentation of everyday activities helped bring the stories to life, combining photographs, memories and local research. It was a particular pleasure to see visitors linger over the images and share their own recollections.

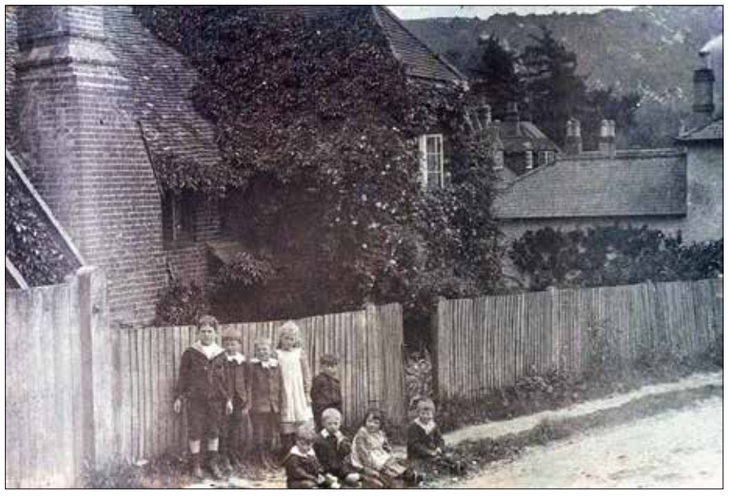
Among the best-known village figures was Eugenie 'Queenie' Batchelor, who lived all her life in Mickleham. Born in 1900 at the William IV, where her father was landlord, Queenie grew up in a household with six siblings and attended Mickleham School. Her fourteenth birthday coincided with the outbreak of the First World War. With her mother already dead and her older brothers away in the forces, Queenie stayed at home to help her father with the books for the family building business.

That business, Batchelors, employed many local men before the Second World War, and Queenie continued its office work until her retirement in the 1960s. She was also a founder member of Mickleham Women's Institute, sang in the choir, enjoyed amateur dramatics and remained a faithful churchgoer.

The exhibition also included William Tharby, known as Bill, whose memoirs provide a vivid account of early railway life. He began work at Dorking North station in 1910, two months before his fourteenth birthday. His working day ran from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Saturday, with no arranged meal break, followed by the walk back to Mickleham. For this he earned half-a-crown a week. Yet he remembered it without complaint, as simply the way most people worked. After six months he transferred to Box Hill and Burford Bridge station, now Box Hill and Westhumble, where his wages doubled to five shillings a week. Delivering telegrams brought a few compensations, particularly when a friendly cook at one of the grand houses produced a slice of cake or pie and a cup of cocoa.

The Arthur family's story demonstrates how the village served visitors as well as residents. By 1895 Albert Arthur was landlord of the Railway Arms in Westhumble, now the Stepping Stones. The inn could sell beer only, but it had a busy trade among working men and Box Hill excursionists. Albert and his wife Barbara raised a large family there, and two of their sons became cab drivers while another was a chauffeur. Together they helped take visitors to the top of Box Hill.

Barbara later kept the pub through difficult years, including the First World War, when her sons enlisted. Her son Ernest eventually took over and, after marrying May Beesley, ran the inn with her. May had a separate entrance for "The Tea Room" and was licensed to make and sell cakes. During the Second World War the pub served as an ARP post. In 1946 it hosted a dinner for Prime Minister Clement Attlee after he opened the new Stepping Stones across the Mole, replacing those destroyed during the war as an anti-invasion measure. Few village pubs can claim such a distinguished footnote.



Children waiting outside Infants School attached to Potteridges (now Catbells) in Westhumble Street early 1900s



Haymaking at Juniper Hill 1885

Other stories in the exhibition were equally revealing. Miriam Miles began work as a third housemaid at Mickleham Hall when she was fourteen, sleeping in the attic with nine or ten other indoor servants. Even the fires were divided according to the conventions of the time: maids attended to the ladies' rooms, while footmen looked after the gentlemen's. Later, Miriam became known for her kindness, her care of neighbours' cats and the crumbs she scattered for birds in the churchyard. She was also a determined horticultural-show competitor and once won the Taylor Cup for the greatest number of points in the cookery classes.

Sid Chapman, the gentle gardener who lived in the Mickleham Almshouses, was remembered for growing what he wanted to grow, rather than necessarily what his employers had planned. He had regular seats at both the William IV and the Running Horses, and his absence is still marked by a bird table in the Almshouses garden. Bill Fuller, first worked at the Burford Bridge Hotel and later became headwaiter at the Running Horses, was famed for his flamboyant moustache and beard, as well as his dramatic flaming Crêpes Suzette. Through his work he met stars including Clark Gable, Telly Savalas and Sir Harry Secombe, but he also gave much to village life as a parish councillor, church choir member and contributor to this magazine.

These are not simply tales of 'the old days'. They show resilience, humour, pride in work and the many informal networks of care that held a village together. The people remembered in *Not Such Everyday Lives* travelled little by modern standards, perhaps, but their lives reached far beyond the boundaries of Mickleham. Their stories deserve to be kept and shared.

Roger Davis M&WLHG

Editor's note: We plan to feature some of the personal profiles from the exhibition in future issues of the MPM.



Chauffeurs at The Burford Bridge Hotel early 1900s

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KING WILLIAM IV

Dear Friends & Neighbours,

We are taking a bit of a breather this month, to enable our sensational staff to have holidays, so we'll be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only in November. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused.

December sees us back to normal. Plus, additionally from 21st December we'll be open every single day (some daytimes only) until 3rd January, because so many of you like to get together with family or friends for our festive menu before or just after the big day.

All our festive menus are on our website, and Eamonn will continue to deal with these bookings, small and large, during November *via* our email on our website at, **www.the kingwilliamiv.com/contact us**

Happy autumn, Anne, Eamonn & Kat x

Byttom Hill Mickleham 01372 372590 www.thekingwilliamiv.com

Mickleham Children's Playground Association Appeal

The Playground has recently celebrated its 10th birthday on the 16th October and a small celebration took place (to be reported in the next magazine).

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a well-maintained and exciting area for children in our community. I am sure that there are many of us, parents and grandparents alike, who have been grateful for its facilities to entertain our children and grandchildren.

This seems too good an opportunity not to remind everyone that the playground is maintained by voluntary income and the services of an eager group of volunteers. The equipment is now out of its warranty period and so we need to maintain funds to repair and replace equipment in the future.

Many of us support the playground by making regular Standing Order payments. Do you think you could consider making a regular donation by Standing Order in favour of Mickleham Children's Playground Association?

It would be marvelous if we could secure the funds needed to cover the insurance of the area from these regular donations, so that any fundraising could be used for the maintenance and improvement of the facility. Last year the cost of insurance was £600.

Bank details are: Mickleham Children's Playground Association, sort code 40-08-44, account number 11202480

Please could you support our efforts to continue to provide play facilities of the highest order. Thank you.

For further information please contact David Ireland at

rev.ireland43@btinternet.com



Volunteer working party carrying out maintenance in the playgroung one October weekend.



Poo bag dispenser

Dog Fouling

At the recent Mickleham Parish Council meeting concern was expressed about the degree of dog fouling on the Children's Recreation Field.

Can residents please remember to keep sight of their dogs, to carry 'dog poo bags', to clear up after them if necessary and to place the bags in the bins provided at both exits. If dog owners have forgotten to bring bags, they are available at both entrances to the area.

The Recreation Field is provided for the use of children and the fouling of the area is simply unacceptable. If the problem persists, the Parish Council may have to resort to banning dogs from the area.

PLEASE COOPERATE for the sake of our younger residents.

Will Dennis

Chair, Mickleham Parish Council

2000 AD
MICKLEHAM



Poo bag left on fence instead of in bin

Bittersweet Celebrations Part 3

Parts 1 and 2 covered the history of the school and recollections of important adults in the life of the school. This final instalment hears from some parents and children; what do they recall?

The Wood family: Alison (parent)

Our three children attended the school in the late nineties and early two thousands. I was privileged to be a Governor for ten years during that time, three of them as chair of governors. I remember the encouragement parents received to help and support their children through their learning journey and working alongside other parents and staff to fundraise to set up the community nursery and school building projects.

I appreciated the way that, through involvement with the school, we were encouraged to build a community of parents. Not only our children made friends, but we made lifelong friends along the way. It was a very happy time for us all. I have memories of seeing the children growing and learning in a safe, happy environment with talented teachers and staff who cared and expected the best for them and from them.

The Jones family: Caroline (parent)

Miriam and Reuben were at St Michael's from 2000 to 2006 all told and we felt SO lucky to get a place for Mim. Gwilym was already working with the school on the Guardianship scheme so he knew this was where he wanted them to be, and I was keen for them to start out in a supportive and caring church school to help set them up for life, whether or not they continued to have a faith. As a parent, many of my abiding memories are about the teamwork and support, and the joy of making things happen together: completing the Iron Age roundhouse, cake sales and plant sales to raise money for the school, clearing and setting up the woodland classroom with our entire group of Year 3 parents in 2006, and all our kids putting on a hilarious end of school show up in the woods before they left.

Other memories are really about the lasting friendships we made, the love, care, fun and frustrations we shared, and the faith we had in pulling through together. I learned such a lot along the way from the staff, the other parents, and from all the kids. It was a very formative part of my life. What's left to say, except that there's a whole host of rather wonderful people out there who would say that wherever they went on to after St Michael's, they will always think of themselves, first and foremost, as St. Michael's kids That's quite a legacy!

Reuben (pupil)

- School trips in the back of Mrs Long's car, vying for the seats in the boot so you could make faces at people in the cars behind.
- Sewing with Alison Wood. Cooking lessons with the little ovens on wheels. Slicing open my finger while cooking with Amanda and getting a giant cartoon bandage from Mrs Piggott.
- Showing people my dinosaur book in the round house. The giant spider made of daffodils. Pond dipping and garden tidy-ups.
- The immense responsibility of being the monitor who got to do the projector for assembly.
- Trying to write my address on my school report and nobody, teachers included, knowing how to spell dad's name. We had to ask Mrs Rathband to check her files.
- Getting your costume for the school play fitted in the staff room. 'Tick Tock it's nearly 8 o'clock, time to go coz Bethlehem's a long way off. Some things never leave you!
- Getting to choose an instrument from the trolley to play on your birthday, panicking and picking up a Cabasa. Oh, the shame!



Sports Day, when the whole school and many parents would gather on Mickleham Recreation Ground

Miriam (pupil)

- During a cold snap in the temporary classroom, Mrs Long measuring our icicle every day to see how much it had grown. Being delighted on Monday morning when it was still there.
- Keeping Roman snails as pets during playtime. (They didn't move too far overnight so could be found the following day.)
- Being allowed to graduate from writing with a pencil to a pen was very exciting, as was getting to be a Year 3 … being called in during recuperation from shingles for the Year 3 leavers' photo – less so.
- School trips with an entire class in only two cars! Mrs Papworth desperately trying to flag down Mrs Long as she was in charge of navigating and she had left her map on the car roof. School trips on the 465 (bus).
- Wandering around Kew Gardens and Mrs Long managing to find all the flowers that smelt awful!
- Monitor-duty in assembly was very stressful! Revd Steadman-Allen bringing in her guitar and accordion for assembly and then trying to teach a pupil to play it in about 5 minutes. She also used to bring in her terriers when she had taught them new tricks. Mrs Siberry bringing her own instrument in for her birthday song, it was a large gong and very loud. All the songs that we can still sing!
- Mrs Kempthorn's costumes for the nativity play, and every single nativity play filmed… most of us have got copies ... on VHS of course. I'm sure they're hilarious! The ancient TV wheeled in for us to watch one of only about 5 videos.
- Making Roman shields and then marching round the playground in Roman costume being centurions, with a teacher bellowing instructions. Doing PE to 'You Can Call Me Al'. Cooking lessons with Alison Wood and sewing lessons with Mrs Kempthorn.
- Garden tidy-ups where the parents came on a weekend to clear up the grounds and us kids got to play together all day! The roundhouse and willow tunnel, which no other schools had. (I may be biased about this one, but they were so cool. We used to have lessons in the roundhouse on occasion.) We all still think of ourselves as 'St Michael's children'.



Painting in the bluebell wood - an eagerly anticipated school trip every spring

Isabel Budleigh (pupil)

I was a pupil from 2000 to 2004. I have so many memories, here are just a few of them.

- School trips to the bluebell woods in Westhumble, sitting in the woods and painting the pictures of the bluebells and a picnic in Mrs Hudlass' garden (which felt like it was through a secret entrance at the bottom of the garden, like 'The Secret Garden').
- The Guardianship programme on Box Hill, getting taken around the hill by Andy the Warden, and learning about bug camouflage. Our Year 3 group getting to name the first Belted Galloway cows introduced to the hill.
- We were taught so much based around nature and the outdoors throughout school and that made it all the more special there; playing in the roundhouse and sometimes having lessons in the willow tunnel in the summer, pond dipping in the study garden and playing lots of make-believe games at playtime, and going to Box Hill and Juniper Hall to learn about the natural world around us.
- Sending letters to Father Christmas and getting replies, complete with snowy footprints through the reception lobby!
- Singing along to Eva Cassidy's 'Songbird' album, especially 'Fields of Gold' and 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow', that Mrs Hudlass would always play for us at the beginning of assemblies.
- Golden time on a Friday afternoon in Reception and Year 1, when we could choose whatever game, book or craft activity we liked and do that to the end of the day.
- The freezy cold outdoor toilets in the shed at the back of the school and sometimes finding Roman snails there.
- When we all went to see the Queen in St Martin's Walk! One of our group, on being spoken to by Prince Philip, said that he couldn't talk to him, as he wasn't allowed to talk to strangers.
- The warm, lovely, supportive, individual, caring, unique atmosphere at St Michael's that made it so special to be a child there, where the focus was on knowing, supporting and teaching each child in the best way for them. I'm still studying today, doing a PhD, and I wouldn't be doing that without the love of learning St Michael's instilled in me.
- St Michael's was unlike any other school, in the best possible way. Even though we all went on to different schools afterwards, I think many of us have remained St Michael's pupils at heart. So, thank you to St Michael's, and to everyone who made it so wonderful, for everything.

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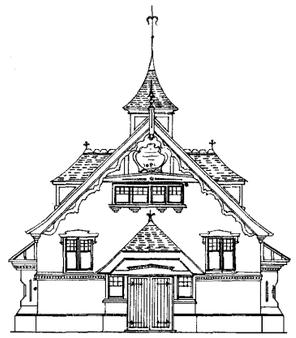
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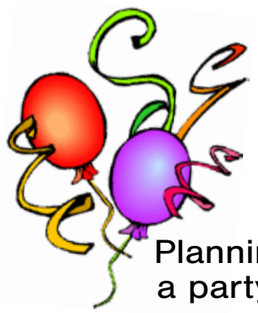
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Community Directory

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Friends of Box Hill – Chair Lyn Richards 01737 842889 lyn@mra.uk.net

Dorking Cricket Club
Chairman – Andrew Homewood homewooda@hotmail.co.uk

Dorking Group of Artists
Exhibition Secretary – Patricia Booth patriciabooth100@gmail.com

Dorking Lawn Tennis & Squash Club
Maddy Halliwell madeline_halliwell@hotmail.co.uk

Dorking Rugby Club 07789 176417
Jim Evans jim@flintcottage.net

The Garden Shed 07759 646353
Pauline Davis paulinedavis33@icloud.com

Juniper Hall Field Centre 01306 734501 enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org
Head of Centre – Sarah Wyper s.wyper@field-studies-council.org
Friends of Juniper Hall friendsofjuniperhall.org friendsofjuniperhall@gmail.com

Mickleham & Westhumble Badminton Club
Membership Secretary – Sarah Pritchard tinkerbell0044@hotmail.com

Mickleham Children's Playground Association 07851 997427
Erin Olivier micklehamplayground@gmail.com

Mickleham Choral Society www.micklehamchoral.org.uk
Thursdays 8 - 10 pm – Mickleham Village Hall
Conductor – Juliet Hornby 01372 373106
Secretary – Mike Benson secretary@micklehamchoral.org.uk

Mickleham Cricket Club
Membership contact – Will Dennis 07903 842674 will@micklehamhallfarm.co.uk

Mickleham Old Box Hillians Football Club
Secretary – John Atewell 01372 374745

Mickleham Parish Council
See website for meeting dates www.micklehamparishcouncil.gov.uk
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Mickleham Parish Magazine
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Co-Editor – Jan Budleigh 07780 976301 editor@micklehammag.co.uk

Mickleham Village Hall
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Bookings Manager – Deanna Darnell 07790 941601 bookings@micklehamvh.co.uk

Mickleham & Westhumble Horticultural Society
Chairman – David Kennington 01372 362309
www.surreycommunity.info/mwhs or davidkennington144@gmail.com

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

within the United Benefice of Leatherhead and Mickleham

INCUMBENT – The Rev'd Will Perry 01372 372313

PARISH PRIEST

The Rev'd Dr Sandra Faccini * 01372 417664
07763 488961
parishpriest@micklehamchurch.org.uk
* Main working days: Monday, Tuesday and Sunday

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cwa@micklehamchurch.org.uk

Tim Mathieson Deputy 07555 597163
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BAPTISMS CO-ORDINATOR

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FUNERALS CO-ORDINATOR

Catherine Diffey 07790 473167
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AUDIOVISUAL

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AV@micklehamchurch.org.uk

PCC ECO GROUP

David Kennington 01372 362309
davidkennington144@gmail.com

PASTORAL VISITOR

Annette Collinge 07809 684625
pv@micklehamchurch.org.uk

www.micklehamchurch.org.uk

For information about services for other denominations see website pages.
Search on 'Churches Together Mole Valley'

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

1	**SUNDAY – Fourth before Advent**	**10 am**	**Family Service, Shoebox Sunday**
2	Monday	11.30 am	Memorial Serice for Barry Moughton
3	Tuesday	7 pm	Compline in church
		7.30 pm	Garden Shed talk at Stepping Stones pub p19
7	Saturday	10 am - noon	Coffee at Westhumble Chapel p2
		from 5.15 pm	Westhumble bonfire p28
8	**SUNDAY – Third before Advent**	10 am	Remembrance Service at church
		11 am	Act of Remembrance at War Memorial
		afterwards	Refreshments at RGS
		7 pm	MCS Remembrance Concert at church p3

Deadline for December MPM and Magazine Christmas Card p21

15	**Sunday - Second before Advent**	10 am	Holy Communion. Deadline for shoeboxes to church.
		4 pm	Lights to Remember Service p3
16	Monday	3 pm	Tea@3 p2
			Order form/payment deadline for Christmas tree p17
17	Tuesday		Ascending Deeper evening on migration, details from Sandra Faccini
21	Saturday	9 - 10 am	Women's breakfast at the Stepping Stones pub p2
		10.30 am - 1 pm	St Barnabas Church Christmas Fair p23
22	**SUNDAY – Next before Advent/Christ the King**		
		8 am	BCP Holy Communion at Westhumble Chapel
		10 am	Holy Communion
		4 pm	Snowman Concert at church p21
		4.45 pm	Lighting of trees and refreshments
24	Tuesday	7 pm	Compline in church
26	Thursday	12.45 for 1 pm	Autumn lunch at MVH p3
28	Saturday	9 to 10 am	Men's breakfast at Stepping Stones pub p2
29	**SUNDAY – First of Advent**	10 am	Morning Worship
		1 - 3 pm	Nursery Christmas Fair at MVH p21



Dates for your diary

Sunday 6th December	Christingle workshop and service p17
	Garden Shed Christmas Workshop p23
Friday 11th December	MCS Christmas Carol Party p23
Saturday 12th December	Westhumble Chapel Christmas Fair
Friday 18th December	Carol Singing round the pubs
Sunday 20th December	Carols by Candlelight 6.30 pm at church
Wednesday 23rd December	St Michael's Crew get-together 7.30 pm
Thursday 24th December	Nativity Service in Westhubmle Field 4 pm p21

MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Andy Diamond	Elaine Machin
Celia Lyons	Tim Mathieson
Caroline Jones	Beverley Mehta
Vickie Leney	Richard Siberry
Susan McGrath	Amanda Wadsworth
Paddy MacVean	Annette Collinge

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH COMMUNITY GROUP COMMITTEE

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mickleham@hotmail.com

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denisedarling4@btinternet.com

Andy Diamond 07789 775354
adiamond714@gmail.com

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Mary Banfield 01372 373912 **mgbbmw@aol.com**
Frances Presley 01306 882473 **jasempres@gmail.com**

More helpers needed – please contact Frances if you can spare some time.



Community Directory

Continued from page 13

MICKLEHAM AND WESTHUMBLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
Chairman – Roger Davis 07759 042406
rogermdavis@icloud.com or www.micklehamwesthumblehistory.co.uk

MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL 01306 885001
Cllr Chris Budleigh 07801 520059
councillor.budleigh@molevalley.gov.uk
Cllr Abhiram Magesh 07765 126399
councillor.magesh@molevalley.gov.uk
Cllr Leah Mursaleen-Plank 07803 353352
councillor.mursaleen-plank@molevalley.gov.uk

RGS SURREY HILLS
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reception@rgs-surreyhills.org

ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY NURSERY
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stmichaelsnursery@btinternet.com

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL 03456 009 009
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Dorking – Sue Tatham 01306 882547
Leatherhead – Beverley Mehta 01372 374304

TREE WARDEN
David Kennington 07546 952521
davidkennington144@gmail.com

WESTHUMBLE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
Lead Co-ordinator – David Allbeury 07860 227451
westhumble.neighbourhood.watch@gmail.com

WESTHUMBLE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Chair - Chris Budleigh 07801 520059
chris.budleigh@btinternet.com

WHATSAPP GROUP
Neil MacKay nlpm@lineone.net

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

CITIZENS ADVICE
Dorking – Lyons Court 01306 732302
Leatherhead – Swan Mews High Street 01306 732301

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111

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Neighbourhood Specialist Team – Dorking Rural East
General enquiries molevalley@surrey.pnn.police.uk

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Farah Patel	07757 807246
Mia McPhillips	* 07792 187160
Holly Flynn	*07917 434566

*Parent/partner's mobile number

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Mickleham Children's Playground Association

Christmas Tree Sale

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5-6 feet	£52
6-7 feet	£65
7-8 feet	£80
8-10 feet	£112



Over the last few years many in Mickleham and Westhumble have taken up the opportunity to acquire a 'real' high-quality Christmas tree *and* contribute to a local cause by purchasing through the Friends of St Michael's School. As most are aware, St Michael's Infant school very sadly had to close its doors in July.

However, there is no need to panic and wonder where you'll get your tree from this year as the Mickleham Children's Playground Association, with support from St Michael's nursery, has taken over this fantastic service!

So, this year, if you enjoy a real tree in your home at Christmas, please consider ordering yours through us with proceeds going to support the maintenance and upkeep of the much loved and used playground. It survives only on fundraising and donations, not receiving any local authority money. Also, you will be helping to further the development of the children at the nursery.

The very high-quality non-drop Nordman firs will be available for collection from the nursery in slots on the weekend of 28th/29th November. Prices are as above and are highly competitive versus the garden centres.

Payments must be paid via bank transfer; the details are on the order form.

To order your tree please complete the order form: **https://forms.gle/GCkaQPY18GKAk44v7** and arrange payment via bank transfer.

If you have any questions or would like us to send you the link and payment details, please email

Micklehamplayground@gmail.com

Forms and payments must be received by,

Monday 16th November.

We would be most grateful for your support for our fantastic local playground and nursery this Christmas.

Thank you.

Emma Machin Treasurer
Mickleham Playground Association

Editor's note

We have advertised the Christingle Workshop early in the hope that lots of people may make a note of it and book with Francesca.

It is a free event where children get together and make something like this.



When our family was of an age to attend, we found it an exciting, fun and informative event. What the components of the Christingle represent is explained. They would then be displayed, lit, in the following church service.

These children's workshops are open to everyone – church-goer family or not. In a way, if you don't attend church, the workshops could be more relevant as they are an opportunity to meet other young families in the two villages over a cup of coffee, especially now the school has closed.

Please give it a go and see what they are like. The Harvest Workshop had low attendance with no school support. It would be such a shame if these joyous occasions died out, another lost provision for the young of the village especially.

CARRIER BAGS NEEDED. Please could you drop off to the porch of St Anthony, Pilgrim's Way, Westhumble, any spare strong carrier bags for use in the delivery rounds. Small ones would be especially useful. Thank you.



Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group

Hidden Histories: Hartwell de la Garde Grissell



Hartwell de la Grissell

In early September our Parish Administrator, Alison Wood, received an intriguing email from Father Rupert Allen, a Catholic Priest at the Oxford Oratory. He told her there is a shrine to Our Lady of Oxford in the Oratory, brought from Rome by Hartwell de la Garde Grissell who is buried here in St Michael's churchyard. Father Allen was hoping to bring a few members of the Men's Oratory group to say prayers at Hartwell's grave and it was agreed I would meet them the following week. Judy Kinloch and I had already recorded Hartwell's grave inscription and were astonished to discover he had been Chamberlain of Honour to three Popes. Occupied with the churchyard project, further research about him was put on hold. Now was the time to find out more.

Hartwell's father was Thomas Grissell, a public works contractor who, with his partner and cousin Samuel Morton Peto, built numerous well-known buildings and landmarks in London, including Nelson's Column, the Reform Club and part of the Houses of Parliament. The company was also involved in railway building. When Hartwell was born in 1839 the Grissell family lived in York Road, Lambeth. However, as Thomas' company prospered, they moved to Palace Gardens in Kensington. In 1848, after Thomas retired from business, he bought Norbury Park House and estate for the family's country residence while keeping their London home.

Hartwell was educated at Harrow (a family tradition) and Brasenose College, Oxford. While at Oxford in the early 1860s, he became involved with the Anglican High Church movement and was soon leaning towards Catholicism. He was received into the Catholic faith in 1868. He later founded the Newman Society, Oxford's oldest Catholic organisation. Until 1854 Oxford required all matriculating students to swear an oath of allegiance to the monarch and the Church of England, effectively banning non-Anglicans. The final restrictions were only removed by the University Tests Act in 1871.

In 1869 Hartwell moved to Rome where he served as a Chamberlain of Honour to Pope Pius IX, one of the highest honours given to a Catholic layman. It was an unpaid position where he fulfilled ceremonial duties such as escorting foreign dignitaries during official events. This was a turbulent time for the city as Italy was in the final stages of unification. In September 1870, the troops of the



Court dress of a papal chamberlain 1883



Our Lady of Oxford

Kingdom of Italy captured Rome marking the end of the Papal States. Undeterred, Hartwell continued to serve Pius IX and his successors, Leo XIII and Pius X. In 1898 he was promoted to one of the four permanent Chamberlains.

His papal duties still left him time to maintain a residence in Oxford and make regular visits to Surrey, frequently staying with his brother, Henry Peto Grissell, at Pixholme Court, Dorking. He pursued his interest in archaeology and coins and was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He also accumulated a significant collection of relics, coins and vestments. Hartwell died from heart disease in Rome in June 1907. Despite his Catholic faith and connections to the Pope, he wanted to be buried in Mickleham. What followed is unusual, to say the least. His body was brought back to England and taken to St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Dorking where, the next morning, Father William Alexander officiated at a Requiem Mass, followed by the first part of the funeral service in the afternoon. The funeral procession then proceeded to Mickleham where the coffin was lowered into a grave 'beautifully lined with ivy, roses, spiraea, white carnations etc' and Father Alexander concluded the service at the graveside, unfortunately in torrential rain.

Hartwell bequeathed the contents of his private chapel to the Church of St Aloysius, the Oxford Oratory, with the stipulation they must be housed within a special chapel (the Relic Chapel). His legacy included the image of the Virgin Mary mentioned by Father Allen, now known as 'Our Lady of Oxford', which Hartwell received from Pius IX.

I met Father Allen and his group in St Michael's church where they could see the memorial to members of the Grissell family, including Hartwell, in the Norbury Chapel and also the two large stained-glass windows given by Thomas de la Garde Grissell, Hartwell's nephew, in 1892. They had only recently discovered that Hartwell is buried in Mickleham and greatly appreciated the opportunity to visit his grave. Luckily, the sun was shining, and I left them by the grave ready to say their prayers for Hartwell.

Judith Long



The Oratory group visit to the grave

Garden Shed 'Scentsational' Talk

Our September talk with Caroline Halfpenny certainly appealed to the senses. She led us on a fragrant journey through the garden, discovering how plants use scent, which plants smell their best at various times of year, and how we can make the most of fragrance in our own gardens.

We discovered that scent is made up of complex chemical compounds released into the air. It's not just there to please our noses, scent plays an important role in the garden, attracting pollinators, deterring unwanted visitors and helping plants communicate with insects. We also learnt that women can often detect scents more strongly than men.

There were plenty of plants to add to our wish lists. *Daphne Bholua* can provide delicious fragrance in the depths of winter, followed by the spring scented *Clematis Armandii*. Lily of the valley was another favourite: apparently, just a few stems can perfume an entire room.

Scent isn't all about flowers. Scented leaves and familiar herbs such as mint, lavender, rosemary and oregano can add another dimension, while lemon verbena releases its lovely fragrance when the leaves are brushed.

Caroline even introduced us to angel's trumpets, whose musky perfume is released at night.

We left with plenty of inspiration and a renewed appreciation that a garden should smell as good as it looks.

Susie Gowenlock

Photo by t-mizo, https://commons.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Chimonanthus_praecox_of_Chiba;_february_2102.jpg



Chimonanthus praecox, aka fragrant wintersweet

Demonstration by Fergus from Hansey Greens

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Christmas Events Round-up (continued on p23)

Nativity Service Advance Call



All you budding angels, kings, shepherds, wise men, cows, donkeys, sheep, readers...not forgetting a baby, Elly Jay wants to hear from you as soon as possible. If you would like to be in this year's nativity service on Westhumble Field, contact her on:

ellyjay@gmail.com

The service itself will be on 24th December. Meet at the top of Adler's Lane (the junction with Burney Road and Chapel Lane) at 4pm to process to the field.

Shoebox Appeal - Spreading the joy for Kids, for Families, for Grandparents

Once again, our community of St Michael's Church, St Michael's Nursery and RGS Surrey Hills are joining together to fill as many Christmas shoeboxes as possible for those who may not benefit from the kinds of Christmas most of us enjoy.

This year we will be working with a charity based in Ferring, West Sussex called 'Link to Hope'. Like last year, we will be creating shoeboxes not just for children but for whole families including grandparents and the more elderly members of the community. This more diverse and inclusive project means everyone gets to enjoy a festive treat. Postage for the boxes cost £3 and you can Gift Aid your donation.

The website,
Shoebox Appeal 2026 - Link To Hope provides lots of guidance to decide what should go in a shoebox. It even has a whole section on crafting things to try for those nifty crafters among you. For those who prefer to use Amazon, there is a list for you too.

There will be a Shoebox Service at St Michael's on Sunday 1st November. Shoeboxes can be delivered to church from then to Sunday 15th November.

All contributed shoeboxes need to be at Dalewood Front Hall, RGS Surrey Hills by Monday 16th November.

We would love it if as many people as possible in our villages individually, as a family, as a group, ...in any way you can, could get involved. Pack over a glass of vino and a curry, or while having Sunday lunch with the family.

Doing good, does good and does you good, so deck the halls and bring the joy because who doesn't want to be Santa, at least a little bit.

Hayley Osborne RGS

Mickleham Parish Magazine 'Christmas Card'

As in past years readers who would like to send Christmas greetings to their local friends by way of the magazine and donate the money saved on cards and postage to charity should contact **Sue Tatham on 01306 882547 or sue@thetathams.co.uk**

The copy deadline for the December magazine is Sunday 8th November

The charge is £10 per person (£20 per couple), or more if you like. Proceeds will go to St Michael's Community Nursery and the Mickleham Children's Playground.



Children's Christmas Concert
The Snowman
Sunday 22nd November at 4 pm
St Michael Church, Mickleham
Followed by refreshments and the lighting of the Christmas trees at 4.45 pm
Retiring collection in aid of UNICEF



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Christmas Craft Workshop

THE GARDEN SHED
www.gardenshed.club

Sunday 6th December
9.15 am to 12.30 pm
Mickleham Village Hall
Cost £45 - Booking Essential

By popular demand, we are once again hosting a Christmas Workshop. Enjoy the morning and make either a Christmas wreath or table decoration. This annual event is the perfect way to start the Christmas season.

You will start the morning with tea and coffee while we demonstrate the wreath and table decoration process. Then you can start your own creation, selecting from our extensive choice of materials. Refreshments will be served during the morning, including tea, coffee, homemade mince pies and sausage rolls. A complimentary mulled wine will also be served and you can enjoy the festive music while you work.

For details **www.gardenshed.club**
Any questions Pauline Davis 07759 646353
Bookings **paulinedavis33@icloud.com**



St Barnabas Church Ranmore
Christmas Fair

Saturday 21st November
10.30 am to 1 pm

Mulled wine, tea & coffee & cake, books, raffle, tombola, jewellery, cakes and produce
Cash and card accepted

Mickleham Choral Society
Conductor - Juliet Hornby. Accompanist - Judith Flint

CHRISTMAS CAROL PARTY



Friday 11th December 2026
Mickleham Village Hall 7.30 p.m.

Tickets £15 adults, £7.50 children 12 and under
Book tickets via Events page on www.micklehamchoral.org.uk

Carols and festive music followed by seasonal buffet and mulled wine

IHRTCT

Save the Date!

We have featured the Christmas events on pages 21 and 23 that you need to book early for, or that are happening early on. Here are more dates to save, details of the events will be in the December issue.

Westhumbe Chapel Fair 12th December

Pubs Carol Singing 18th December

Crew Get-together 23rd December

Make sure to save some Christmas present buying for the Westhumble Fair - there will be some fantastic gifts on offer there.

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One-Hundred-and-One Things to do with Conkers - Well Almost

Autumn has truly arrived at St. Michael's Nursery, and our children have been having the most wonderful time exploring the season's greatest treasure - conkers! These shiny brown seeds, this year particularly large, have become the star of our recent sensory, mathematical, and outdoor learning adventures.

One of our favourite activities was making our own conker soap. Did you know that conkers contain natural saponins that create soapy bubbles? The children loved grating them down to create a frothy, natural wash. We used our homemade, truly biodegradable creation in Forest School to wash our muddy hands, and it proved to be the perfect eco-friendly liquid for washing up dirty pots and pans in our mud kitchen.



Back in the nursery, the conkers became brilliant tools for maths games. We used them to count, sort by size, and make conker caterpillars, carefully threading them together and practising our fine motor skills. (See right.)



We raced the conkers down engineered rolling tracks using gutters and tubes, experimenting with gravity and speed to see whose conker could travel the fastest and furthest.

Of course, we couldn't miss out on a bit of tradition! The children used hand drills to bore holes in their finest specimens, then threaded them with string, ready for classic conker battles. This was a fantastic way to build hand-eye coordination and learn to take turns.

It has been a joy to watch the children lead their own learning through such a simple, natural resource.

We are always looking for natural materials for play, and now we are looking for pinecones! If you have a collection in your garden and have a surplus, please drop them off at the nursery gate.

Hilary Budd





ST. MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY NURSERY

We have several spaces available, morning only, for the remainder of the academic year and are also booking tours for new starters in September 2027. Please contact the nursery to arrange a tour.

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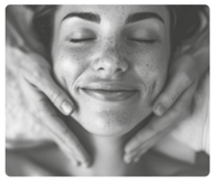
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'From Dorking to Ochos Rios': Strawberry Studios South

Dorking Museum's winter exhibition marks fifty years of Strawberry Studios South. Between 1972 and 1976, the band 10cc released four albums and eight singles, with two reaching number one in the UK charts. These were all recorded at Strawberry Studios Stockport, but the studio's success made it difficult for the band to book recording time. So, 10cc bought the old Pavilion Cinema on Dorking's South Street and converted it into a state-of-the-art recording studio.

This exhibition explores the story of Strawberry Studios South and the talented artists that recorded there, including 10cc, Paul McCartney, and Stevie Wonder. Featuring a wealth of information, photographs, and memorabilia, this exhibition is also accompanied by a booklet, 'Strawberry Studios South'.



The old Pavilion Cinema boarded up on South Street

Strawberry Recording Studios: Music History from Stockport to Dorking



The museum is hosting a talk on 19th November at 7 pm, exploring Strawberry Studio's fascinating development and history. Drinks (included in the price of the ticket) and a viewing of the exhibition will be held from 6 pm at the museum, with the talk following at Crossways Hall, Junction Road at 7 pm. Dr Peter Wadsworth, who is leading this illustrated talk, has a PhD in Strawberry's history from the University of Manchester, and is co-author of the book *Strawberry Studios Forever: Strawberry Studios, 10cc and the birth of Manchester Music*.

For booking and further details, please see **https://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/temporary-exhibitions/**

Free entry, Thursdays 1-4 pm, Fridays and Saturdays 10am - 4pm.
www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk
01306 876591

Laura Swinson



Westhumble Bonfire and Fireworks

Saturday 7th November in Westhumble Field

(w3w///friend.table.olive)



Torchlight procession at 5.15 pm from junction of Burney Road, Chapel Lane and Adlers Lane

Bonfire lighting at 6 pm **Fireworks from 6.30 pm**



All from Mickleham & Westhumble welcome along with relatives and friends.

The charge per person can be kept down if more people attend. We are asking for £10 per head for adults and £5 for children at the entrance to the field.

Pork sausages available from the BBQ. Hot drinks and veggie food by Routine Coffee. Ice-cream from JJ's Gelato, plus mulled wine and beer.

Please remember that a bonfire is a dangerous place even before it is lit, so keep small children under supervision.

Bonfire Night Strand

There are six words associated with Bonfire Night hidden in the grid. The letters making up each can go in any direction and can change direction but run in a continuous ribbon or strand. There are no spaces between two-word names. Solution next issue.

E	L	K	A	P	S
R	C	R	T	H	E
R	O	A	L	E	R
M	A	E	E	I	R
H	N	W	H	I	F
C	C	E	N	D	L
R	T	A	N	O	E
O	T	E	K	C	R



Why Not Give It A Go?

The editors thoroughly enjoy the articles that are sent in every month and truly appreciate the effort that goes into them. So, all our regular contributors, please keep them coming. The following is a plea for a wider range of topics in addition to, not instead of, your output.

We have noticed that there does seem to be a preponderance of history, gardening and environmental features each issue. We would like to include a wider variety of subjects. While the editors find the articles we receive fascinating, we realise some readers may have other interests. However, we can only print what we are sent.

If there is something you have been meaning to write about, why not give it a go? You don't need a good writing style or perfect grammar. The editorial team can fix all that. It is the research and content that is valuable to us.

Send any ideas in to the editor email and we will be in touch.

The Bentley advertisement photo from the 1940s was sent in by Mark Day. Perhaps the company was attempting to identify itself with the innovation and design quality of the new A24. The A24 past Mickleham is considered one of the first dual carriageway bypasses in the UK. It was opened in two stages in 1937 and 1938 and was recognised for its pioneering design and construction methods. The engineer was W P Robinson. Even then it incorporated north and south bicycle lanes because of heavy demand from cyclists.

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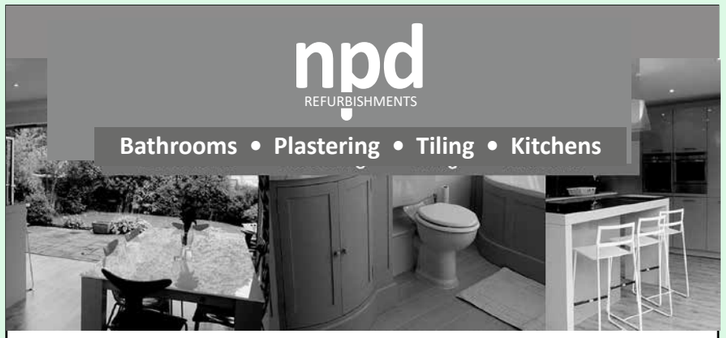
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